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20 MAR 1964

MEMORANDUM FOR: Assistant Director, National Estimates

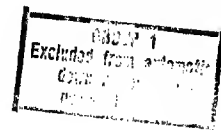
SUBJECT: OSI Comments on ONE Memorandum, "Trends in the World Situation," dated 19 February 1964

1. We have reviewed the subject memorandum and, while our comments are undoubtedly far too late to correct this particular paper, our views may have some interest for future studies of a similar nature. Those of us who have read this memo were quite surprised by its lack of any appreciation of the role of science and technology in the world situation, present and future. Perhaps the drafter intended to title his memorandum "Trends in the World Political Situation," and we are unnecessarily perturbed by a paper that reflects so little of the scientific and technological events which have had so much to do in shaping the development of the world situation.

2. It is difficult to understand how certain significant events which help to shape the world power position could be largely ignored. In our opinion the economic positions and military postures of the world powers have been and continue to be strongly influenced by scientific and technical activities. Indeed, the hope of emerging nations to attain advanced status hinges largely on developing their technological strengths, by importation of aid and by education. This is not even indirectly acknowledged in the text.

3. Perhaps this particular study is an anomaly, inasmuch as most other ONE studies, after considered review, indicate the probable future posture based on certain S&T activities. These are clearly defined, for example, in 11-4, 11-3, 11-2, 11-1, 11-8, 11-14, etc. Our frustration is further understandable, however, when current national estimates have indicated the significance the Soviets attach to using S&T in achieving national military, economic, political, and social goals. ORR, for example, estimates that 1/5 of total Soviet military expenditures is for research and development. In the USSR, also, the

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majority of the top political leaders have a technical background, a fact worth considering in world politics.

4. We hope the above expression will be taken in context with our general approval of most ONE studies. There are still a number of estimates which, in our opinion, suffer from the lack of understanding of the role of S&T in the outlook of various countries. We would be happy to cooperate with ONE, and have done so in the past, in attempting to achieve a more balanced presentation in certain estimates. I personally believe that ONE badly needs a capable scientist on its Board if it is ever to be in a position to understand better the full impact of science and technology.

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DONALD F. CHAMBERLAIN  
Assistant Director  
Scientific Intelligence

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